

THE JACOB JOURNAL

A NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

JULY 1997

Denying Liberties to Law Abiding Citizens Will Not Stop Gun Violence

Recently, a proposal was brought before the Board of Supervisors to ban the sales of so-called "Saturday Night Specials" in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. It is a symbolic proposal at best, and an unfair denial of personal freedom at worst. I opposed the ban because law-abiding citizens should have the right to own a gun.

As we celebrate our independence this month, I urge you to investigate the truth behind the "Saturday Night Special" myth. I did, and here's what I found:

Myth: So-called "Saturday Night Specials" are the weapon of choice for criminals. **Fact:** According to the San Diego Police Department, only 15% of gun crimes in San Diego involve a so-called "Saturday Night Special". Criminals prefer handguns that are powerful and expensive, such as the 9 millimeter and the 380.

Myth: There is a universal definition of a so-called "Saturday Night Special" that is accepted within the criminal justice system. **Fact:** There is no consistent and well-known definition of a so-called "Saturday Night Special."

Myth: Banning the sale of so-called "Saturday Night Specials" in the unincorporated area of San Diego County will keep them out of the hands of criminals and kids. **Fact:** It is already against federal law for felons and people under the age of 21 to purchase handguns. According to a local newspaper editorial, "These so-called "junk" guns ... are routinely sold illegally out of the trunks of cars in inner-city neighborhoods."

IN THIS ISSUE...

Denying Liberties to Law Abiding Citizens Will Not Solve Gun Violence.....	1
Action Items.....	2
County Round-Up.....	3
Get On Our Mailing List.....	4



Myth: So-called "Saturday Night Specials" are the weapon of choice for kids. **Fact:**

According to law enforcement testimony before the California Council on Criminal Justice, "Saturday Night Specials, the cheap small-caliber handguns often thought to be a staple in juvenile crimes, are not in fact the weapon of choice for juvenile gun criminals." The State Justice Department reported, "the number one firearm used in crime is the 9 millimeter, and that has grown every year."

Myth: So-called "Saturday Night Specials" are poorly made and will blow up in your hand. **Fact:** San Diego Law Enforcement Officials are unable to identify one specific incident of a gun malfunctioning and blowing up in a person's hand.

Myth: So-called "Saturday Night Specials" are "cheap guns" that serve no purpose. **Fact:** Inexpensive handguns are frequently purchased by law-abiding citizens who cannot afford an expensive handgun for the purpose of self-defense.

Myth: Society is far more dangerous when people carry guns for self-defense. **Fact:** According to two separate studies done at the University of Chicago and Florida State University, when cities and Counties made it easier for a citizen to obtain a concealed weapons permit, crime rates declined.

Myth: Gun control laws decrease the crime rate in an area. **Fact:** Washington D.C. banned the sale of all handguns in 1976 and made it unlawful to possess, acquire or bring into Washington D.C. any handgun which was not registered as of Feb. 5, 1977. Yet in comparison to other major cities in the U.S., last year Washington D.C. had the 3rd highest murder rate, the 6th highest robbery rate and the 15th highest aggravated assault rate. *see LIBERTIES, page three*

**Supervisor Dianne Jacob
proudly serves the
communities of:**

Agua Caliente Springs
Allied Gardens
Alpine
Barrett
Blossom Valley
Bostonia
Boulevard
Campo
Casa de Oro
Crest
Cuyamaca
Dehesa
Del Cerro
Descanso
Dulzura
El Cajon
Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
Flinn Springs
Granite Hills
Guatay
Harbison Canyon
Jacumba
Jamul
Julian
La Mesa
Lake Morena
Lakeside
Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna
Mount Helix
Pine Hills
Pine Valley
Potrero
Poway
Ramona
Rancho San Diego
Rolando
Santa Ysabel
Santee
Shelter Valley
Spring Valley
Tecate
Tierra del Sol
Vallecitos

ACTION ITEMS

RANCHO JAMUL DEAL COMPLETE -- HABITAT SAVED AT NO COST TO LOCAL TAXPAYERS!

When Supervisor Dianne Jacob was re-elected in March 1996, she began an ambitious effort to broker a deal to preserve 4800 acres of sensitive habitat, called Daley Ranch, at NO COST TO LOCAL TAXPAYERS. Last month, she did it!

The land, which has valuable habitat and is occupied by endangered and sensitive species, was owned by the Daley Family and is in foreclosure. In the last year, Jacob has worked closely with State and Federal resource agencies, as well as County planners and non-profit organizations to find funding mechanisms to purchase the Daley Ranch.

In June, Jacob's efforts paid off. Wells Fargo agreed to the sale of the Daley Ranch to a non-profit agency. In addition, Wells Fargo will underwrite \$4 million of the purchase price. The name of the new 4800 acre preserve will be Rancho Jamul.

By brokering this unprecedented sale, Jacob has succeeded in balancing two important values -- economic enhancement and environmental preservation. Rancho Jamul will be an asset to the region, providing meaningful open space and passive recreational opportunities such as riding and hiking trails!

PROJECT 30/30 -- STREAMLINE TO SAVE

As a part of her continuing drive to run County government more like a business, Supervisor Dianne Jacob proposed *Project 30/30*. The goal is to cut both the cost and paperwork associated with land-use applications by 30%, and at the same time protect community involvement in planning decisions.

Project 30/30 evolved from Jacob's common-sense approach. Since the Department of Planning and Land-Use is not subsidized by the County's General Fund, the fees paid by applicants are direct payments of the cost to process the applications. By reducing the red-tape of land-use applications by 30%, the cost to process the applications will also be cut by 30%!

Jacob's *Project 30/30* was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors during budget deliberations. Work is currently underway to implement *Project 30/30* as soon as possible.

LIBERTIES,*continued from page one*

Myth: By banning the sale of so-called "Saturday Night Specials" in San Diego County, the crime rate will be reduced. **Fact:** The crime rate in San Diego County has dropped 44% since 1991. This has resulted from the "three strikes law", added law enforcement officers, community policing efforts, and more jail beds. In other words, punishing the perpetrator works!

Myth: Law enforcement officers believe that violent crime will decrease by banning the sale of inexpensive handguns. **Fact:** A local survey of law enforcement officers showed just the opposite. 92% of those surveyed stated that further restrictive gun laws will not decrease violent crime.

Myth: A ban on the sale of so-called "Saturday Night Specials" will make our streets and neighborhoods safer. **Fact:** On January 15, 1997, during a San Diego City Council Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting, San Diego Police Chief Jerry Sanders referred to a ban on so-called "Saturday Night Specials" as "basically a symbolic move."

Myth: Guns are easily accessible because there are not enough gun control laws. **Fact:** There are over twenty thousand gun laws in the United States.

Final Fact: There is no evidence that a ban on sales of so-called "Saturday Night Specials" in the unincorporated area of San Diego County will reduce crime; make our streets safer; prevent juveniles, felons, or criminals from possessing a gun; or save one life!

This proposed ban is nothing more than an impractical solution looking for a problem. It does not address the real problem of gun violence, in particular juvenile gun violence.

According to a 1995 California Council on Criminal Justice Report, the solution to juvenile gun violence includes mandatory sentences for firearms dealers who illegally sell guns to juveniles, mandatory sentences for juveniles who commit violent crimes, adult trials for 14 and 15 year-olds who commit violent gun crimes, increased penalties for gang-related gun crimes, punishment of juvenile students who illegally possess guns, cracking down on truants and curfew violators, vigorous enforcement of alcohol and drug laws pertaining to minors.

Finally, according to the Report, the breakdown of the family, NOT GUNS, appears to be the main reason behind the increase in juvenile crime!

C O U N T Y R O U N D - U P

News shorts from around East County...

STEELE CANYON PARK OPEN! On June 28, 1997, Supervisor Jacob officially dedicated Steele Canyon Park in Rancho San Diego. The park includes baseball, basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; as well as kids playgrounds, walkways, and a shaded area.

WILLOW GLEN FINISHED! A two-lane expansion of Willow Glen Rd. between Jamacha Rd. and Steele Canyon was finished recently, with more than \$300,000 saved over the expected cost. Travel will be easier for commuters on the road, and safety is added for riders on the new equestrian trail.

LOS COCHES PROJECT BEGINS! The bidding has begun for this project to widen Los Coches Rd. between Old Highway 80 and Julian Ave. The road will go from two to four lanes, and a sidewalk will be added on the east side.

COLLIER PARK RIBBON TO BE CUT! On July 25, 1997, Supervisor Jacob will cut the ribbon for the improvements at Collier Park in Ramona. Among the changes are a new tot lot, new lighting, walkways, landscaping and picnic areas. Please call (619) 694-3049 for more information on the ceremony.

Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. So, if you like what you've read, fill out the form below and mail it back to us at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101. We'll put you on our mailing list to get The Jacob Journal regularly!

Name _____

Signature _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

We hope to hear from you soon!

**VISIT US ON THE
WORLD WIDE
WEB!**



**www.co.san-
diego.ca.us/
cnty/bos/**

DIANNE JACOB

*Supervisor, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101*

*(619) 531-5522
(800) 852-7322 toll free
(619) 696-7253 fax*

*e-mail:
dianne-jacob@co.san-diego.ca.us*